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THE HEALTH OFFICERS' MANUAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH LAW OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, containing the Public Health Law (Laws of 1893, Chap. 661), and all Statutes relating to the Public Health, Powers and Duties of Local Boards of Health and Health Officers, Adulterations of Food, Medical, Dental, and Veterinary Practice, Pharmacy, etc., as Amended to the Close of the Legislative Session of 1902, with Annotations, Forms, and Cross-References. By L. L. Boyce. Albany: Matthew Bender. 1902. pp. xii, 289. 8vo.

This volume is designed to aid New York boards of health and health officers in the performance of their duties by collecting within small compass the various scattered laws to which they must look for guidance. In the first and second chapters, comprising fully three fourths of the book, the author reprints the New York Public Health Law of 1893 and other statutes relating more or less directly to the preservation of the public health. Eighty-two cases in which the act of 1893 has been construed are summarized under the appropriate sections. The third chapter consists of a re-statement of the powers and duties of the officers created by the act, with appropriate comment and explanation by the author. The directions given to registering officers in regard to the method of reporting vital statistics to the Bureau at Albany are especially full and explicit. One may perhaps question whether the author has been wise in separating the substance of the third chapter from that of the first. It would render the book more convenient for reference and save much repetition of the wording of the statute of 1893 if each section of the statute were immediately followed by his comment upon it. As the volume is now arranged, the reader is forced constantly to refer from one part of it to another in order to compare the statute with the author's exposition of it; and this is made the more difficult by an imperfect system of cross-references. The book concludes with a set of forms drawn up by the author for use in complying with the provisions of the statute. The work cannot fail to prove useful to all health officials.

HISTORY OF THE LOUISIANA PURCHASE. By James Q. Howard. Chicago: Callaghan and Company. 1902. pp. 170. 8vo.

This book, evidently inspired by the coming St. Louis Exposition, is a somewhat condensed statement of the political and diplomatic events which finally resulted in the peaceful acquisition by this country of a vast and rich western empire. As a preliminary to this, the history of the early exploration and settlement of this region is briefly sketched. The work purports to be merely a popular account, and as such it is rather interesting and readable; but the style is often crude, and occasionally perhaps resembles that of the proverbial Fourth of July oration. The discussion is not always judicial, and is sometimes colored by prejudice, particularly in the treatment of Jefferson, who is systematically belittled. The book will, however, serve a useful purpose in making more easily accessible the salient facts connected with a most important event in our history and in emphasizing the significance of its coming centennial celebration.

REPORT OF SPECIAL AND REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE COLORADO BAR ASSOCIATION. Vol. 5. 1902. pp. 276. 8vo.

This attractive publication contains an account of the proceedings of the Colorado Bar Association at its last annual meeting and a previous special meeting. Several addresses delivered before that body are included, those of most general interest being that of Edward T. Taylor on "The Torrens System of Registering Title to Land," and that of William T. Jerome on the relation of the bar to certain present-day problems, such as the elevation of politics, the trusts, and an appointive judiciary.